

This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by the city of Sakura. Unless otherwise indicated, inquiries over the telephone or at the facilities are handled only in Japanese. If you do not speak Japanese, please have someone who speaks Japanese be with you when you make inquiries. Inquiries in English can be answered generally on Mondays and Tuesdays through *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

Contact: *Koh'hoh-ka*, ☎(043) 484-1111, Ext.2275 or ☎(043) 484-6103; Fax: (043) 486-8720;  
E-mail: [koho@city.sakura.lg.jp](mailto:koho@city.sakura.lg.jp); URL: <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp>

~ 2013 New Year's Message from Mayor of Sakura ~

**Building up a Dignified City**



On this first day of January 2013, I cordially wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. I believe many of you are getting started off this New Year with a new resolution. I also have renewed my resolution to make Sakura City renowned for its richness in every aspect of life, such as natural environment, history, culture, education, community activities as well as its welfare programs. We will further disseminate this attractiveness to the people in the city and surrounding areas for revitalization of Sakura City.

Another focus of our city governance is safety and security of its citizens. We are determined to safeguard the city through disaster-prevention measures including crime-prevention measures and seismic strengthening of schools which serve as shelters during emergencies. At the same time, we have been improving the city's child-support and elderly-care programs. Among the measures being implemented are: i) expansion of nursery schools capacity and home-nursery-staff program, ii) creation of after-illness childcare, iii) measures against dementia, and iv) efforts for keeping a watch over elderly people who are living alone. In addition, we are stimulating the local economy by expanding support for small businesses and by developing the traditional agriculture into the "senary" industry (a new industrial category in which the primary, secondary and tertiary industries are integrated).

By further pursuing these measures, I believe we can make Sakura, although it is a medium sized city, a dignified city where people want to visit, live, and stay living.

Again, I extend my best wishes to every city resident and hope this year will be filled with joy and success for you and your loved ones.

*Kazuo Warabi*  
Mayor of Sakura City

**SEIJIN-SHIKI (COMING-OF-AGE DAY CELEBRATION)**

Monday, January 14 at the City Concert Hall

Sakura City offers the coming-of-age ceremony to those who were born between April 2, 1992 and April 1, 1993. 30-minute ceremonies are held three times for different residential areas of the new adults. Please note the starting time for each ceremony shown below:

- Usui/Chiyoda: 10:00-, ●Shizu: 11:30-, ●Sakura/Negoh/Wada/Yatomi: 13:30-
- Doors open 30 minutes before opening of each ceremony
- Please present your invitation card at the reception desk
- Those who do not have the invitation card (who have moved out from the city, moved in after December 1, 2012, or not received or lost the card, etc.) could receive one on the ceremony day at the re-issuance desk at the venue
- Although parking at the Aeon Shopping Mall Usui is available for 2.5 hours for free, you are encouraged to take public transportation as traffic jams are usually foreseen

Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (The Children & Youth Section), ☎484-6190 for more information.



\* No food, beverages, or smoking allowed at the venue

**TAKO-AGE TAIKAI (KITE-FLYING CONTEST)**



*Tako-age* (kite-flying) is a popular pleasure among Japanese, especially during New Year's holidays to celebrate the New Year. In Sakura, an annual contest will be held at the athletic field of *Iwana Undoh Koh'en* (Iwana Sports Park) on **Sunday, January 6 from 9:30 to 11:30**. Kites may be of any size or design, handmade or purchased from stores, although flying a kite with a fishing rod is forbidden. Prizes will be awarded for kites that are judged to be unique, or those that fly relatively high. Everyone is welcome to participate. Free of charge. Feel free to participate as there is no need to register in advance. For inquiries, call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (The Children & Youth Section), ☎484-6190 on January 4, or, *Iwana Undoh Koh'en*, ☎484-4375 on the event day.



## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Ten municipal houses shown below are available. Applications for them will be accepted from **Friday, January 4 through Friday, January 18.**

Location	411-40, Ohja-machi Horinouchi- <b>kyutaku</b>		13-3, Fujisawa-machi Fujisawa- <b>kyutaku</b>		232, Ohja-machi Ohja- <b>kyutaku</b>	
Type	Elderly	General	Elderly	General	General	General
Number of Available Houses	1	4	2	1	1	1
Layout	2DK	3DK	2DK	3DK	2DK	3DK

\* Monthly rent is to be determined every year based on the tenants' income and the individual housing conditions.

Eligible citizens are those who fulfill all the following conditions;

- i) Living in Sakura for one year or more, and have paid city taxes without delinquency
- ii) have one or more relatives to live together (however, those who are 60 years of age or above can apply without a cohabiter)
- iii) Evidently in need of housing
- iv) Meet the income criteria (under ¥158,000/month, or under ¥214,000/month for households with certain conditions such as aged households, disabled households, etc.)
- v) Have a cosigner who can prove regular monthly income at the same level as the applicant's or more
- vi) Neither the applicant nor the cohabiter is a gangster

Application leaflets are available at *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* at the City Hall, city branch offices, Yatomi police box, and Nishi-shizu/Sakura Citizens' Service Centers. Call *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* (Construction Guidance Section), ☎484-6168 for further information.

## START OF TEMPORARY CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN AFTER ILLNESS



Sakura City provides temporary nursing care for infants who are not fully recovered or are in the process of recovering and are not yet allowed to go back to kindergarten or nursery schools, as long as the parents are not available to provide child care at home for unavoidable reasons, such as their jobs or ceremonial occasions. Service fee is ¥2,500 per day or ¥1,250 if no lunch is needed and the total service hours are less than 4 hours.

**Eligible Children:** Children over 6 month old and above, as long as they are preschoolers and residing in Sakura City and/or attending kindergarten or nursery schools in Sakura City

**Service Facilities:**

	<b>Koala Kids</b>	<b>Smile</b>
Location	A special room for children after illness, <b>Miya-no-mori Hello Kids</b> , 3-1-1, Miya-no-dai, Sakura	A room in a building separate from medical wards, <b>Toho University Sakura Medical Center</b> , 564-1, Shimo-shizu, Sakura
Phone Number	☎462-2622 (8:00 – 17:00)	☎462-8860 (9:00 – 14:00)
Application Deadline	17:00 of the previous day of the service	14:00 of the previous day of the service
Service Hours	Monday through Friday: 8:00 to 18:00 Saturday: 8:00 to 17:00 (Excluding National Holidays, etc.)	Monday through Friday: 8:00 to 18:00 (From Jan. 8, 2013. Excluding National Holidays, etc.)
Max. Number of Days	Five days	Three days

**Steps for utilization\* of temporary child care for children after illness:**

1. Get registered in the program at Sakura City Hall
2. Obtain a registration approval from Sakura City
3. Call the facility you would like to use, and make an appointment for a prior interview with the child
4. Visit a medical institution when the child is ill, and tell the doctor that you are using this service
5. Call the facility with which you interviewed in advance and make a reservation at latest the day before use. At the same time, please inform the disease name and whether or not quarantine is required
6. After confirming that the service can be provided by the facility, receive the “information on medical practice” from the doctor
7. Take an application form, letter of consent, information on medical practice, and a communication note on the day of use

For detailed information and application forms, please visit the following website (Japanese only):

<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/0000007691.html>

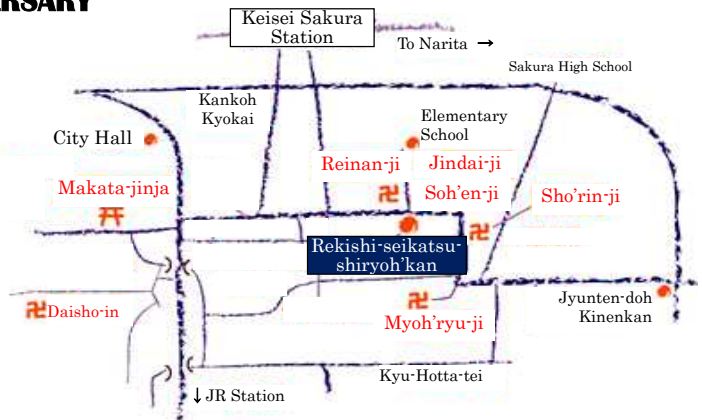
Call *Kosodate-shien-ka* (Child-rearing Support Section), ☎484-6139 for inquiries.

## EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

### ◆ SHICHI-FUKUJIN STAMP RALLY 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Shichi-fukujin, which literally means "Seven Gods of Good Fortune", are said to bring wealth, happiness, and long life. The shrines/temples of the seven gods invite visitors to a Stamp Rally from January 1 through January 10 and on the 10th day of every month, from 10:00 to 16:00. The seven shrine/temples are: Jindai-ji, Soh'en-ji, Reinan-ji, Shoh'rin-ji, Myoh'ryu-ji, Makata-jinja, and Daishoh-in. Stamping sheets for vermilion seals are available for ¥400 each at any of the shrine/temples, Rekishi-seikatsu-shiryoh'kan (Center of history and folklore), or the Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai (1-minute walk from the south exit of Keisei Sakura Station, closed between January 1 and 3). ¥200 will be required per vermilion seal to be stamped on the sheet (at Makata-jinja and Daishoh-in, ¥300 for two seals), or you can just purchase a fully stamped sheet for ¥2,000 at the Rekishi-seikatsu-shiryoh'kan. ● This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Stamp Rally. A limited number of special stamping sheets decorated with gold leaf are released. Call Sakura Shoh'koh-kaigi-sho (Sakura Chamber of Commerce and Industry), ☎486-6117 for more information.



### ◆ KUSABUE-NO-OKA HILLS



#### MOCHI-TSUKI TAIKAI (MOCHI POUNDING, OR RICE-CAKE MAKING)

On **Thursday, January 3**, everyone is invited to the *Mochi* Pounding event at *Kusabue-no-Oka* hills to celebrate the New Year! Admission fee to *Kusabue-no-Oka* is **free** on the day. You could also enjoy *Zohni*, Japanese traditional soup with *mochi* for New Year, and calligraphy writing (for which please prepare calligraphy kits), and lots more at the event site.

#### NIGHT TRAIN RIDE WITH ILLUMINATIONS

17:00 to 19:00,

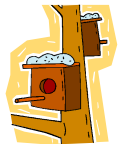
Every Saturday until January 26

- Park admission is free after 17:00
- To be cancelled in case of rain
- Free for children under 3
- ¥310 for one ride/person

### ◆ WILD BIRD WOODS VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

8:30 to 12:00, every second & fourth  
Friday of the month

- Tree trimming
- Underbrush mowing
- Birdhouse making
- Tree planting, etc.



With occasional recreation such as mushroom planting and gardening!

Call *Imba-Numa* Sunset Hills (27 Iinomachi),  
☎484-1011, or send fax: 235-7305

### ◆ IMBA-NUMA SUNSET HILLS

#### TENNIS CLASSES FOR BEGGINERS

10:00 to 12:00, Every Tuesday

(January & February classes, 4 lessons each)

- ¥500 per 1 lesson including insurance premiums (January Class starts on Jan. 8)
- At *Imba-Numa* Sunset Hills Tennis Court
- Both classes are limited to 10 people, on a first-come, first-served basis
- Please prepare tennis shoes

Call *Imba-Numa* Sunset Hills,  
☎484-1011, or send fax: 235-7305 for application or inquiries.

### ◆ NEW YEAR GARBAGE COLLECTION

Normal services start on  
Friday, January 4.

The volume of burnable garbage at the first collections of New Year tends to be very high. Please help us by splitting your garbage into separate collection days between January 4 (Fri), 7 (Mon), and 9 (Wed). Call *Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka* (the Garbage Control Section), ☎484-6149 for more information.



### FREE CONSULTATION FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

- Legal matters, immigration, visa, start-up business, pension, insurance, labor problem, etc. Don't suffer alone! -

Saturday, January 19, 2013

13:00 to 16:00

At Chiba International Center

◆Free ◆Reservation required

◆Interpreters available\* on prior request

(\*Need to be applied no later than Friday, January 11)

◆Contact: ☎297-0245, Fax:297-2753

E-mail: [kudo@ccb.or.jp](mailto:kudo@ccb.or.jp)

Place: 14th Fl., Marive East, World Business Garden (WBG)  
2-6, Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba

(5-minute walk from South Exit of Kaihin Makuhari Station)

### POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As at the end of November 2012, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,961 (86,972 males and 88,989 females) in 72,168 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,056. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,017.

# HEALTH INFORMATION



Contacts: Kenkoh Kanri Center (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711; Seibu Hoken Center (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181; Nambu Hoken Center (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812.

HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN			
AGE OF CHILDREN	JAN' 13	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in August 2012	Thu. 31	9:30—10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30—14:30	
	Thu. 17	9:30—10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30—14:30	
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months, born in April 2012	Fri. 25	9:30— 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Wed. 09		Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in July 2011	Wed. 16	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Fri. 11		Seibu Hoken Center
	Tue. 29		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in July 2009	Tue. 15	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Thu. 10		Seibu Hoken Center
	Wed. 30		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in January 2011 or in January or July 2010 * On the days with * mark, Consultation on Speech Development is also available.	Tue. 22*	13:30—14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	Mon. 28		
	Fri. 18*		Seibu Hoken Center
	Thu. 24		
	Thu. 17*		Nambu Hoken Center

## COUNSELING SERVICES

### FREE ANTENATAL CLASS

-Application required-

For expectant mothers and fathers to have a baby between March 2013 and August 2013, a free antenatal class, "Mom's and Pop's Class," will be held as follows:

9:00 to 12:15, Sat. January 26  
At Kenkoh Kanri Center

This class gives instruction on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, pregnancy simulation experience to fathers, etc. Parents in their first pregnancy have priority. Please call Kenkoh Kanri center to sign up.

### SUKU-SUKU HATTATSU SOHDAN

-Application required-

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available:

9:00 to 12:00, Thu. January 17  
At Kenkoh Kanri Center

If you feel distressed about your child's developmental or behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone.

### TELEPHONE COUNSELING

with public health nurse or nutritionist

-For all ages-

8:30-17:15, Monday through Friday

Available at each center

Dental hygienist and Speech therapist are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE CONSULTATION

For all ages - Application required

9:30 to 11:30, Mon. January 28  
At Seibu Hoken Center

Consultation on health check results and how to live a healthier life, nutritional guidance, and health check including blood-pressure measurement can be provided.



## HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate!



**Holiday Nighttime Emergency – Physician & Dentist: 19:00-21:45 at Kenkoh Kanri Center ☎485-6711**

**Pediatrics – for children under 16 years  
Day & Night, at the Kenkoh Kanri Center**

☎485-3355

For diseases in the acute & early stage.  
Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning).  
On Sundays, public holidays, and year-end/new year holidays (12/29-1/3): 9:00-16:45 & 19:00-6:00

**Surgeon, Physician, ENT doctor & Dentist**

Consultation with doctors will be available during the hours shown below at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system.

Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty:

- Surgeon: 9:00-16:30, 19:00-21:45
- Physician, Dentist: 9:00-16:30
- ENT doctor: 19:00-21:45